

VIRGINIA:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE CITY OF LYNCHBURG

**IN RE: TEMPORARY EMERGENCY ORDER SUSPENDING JURY TRIALS IN
 THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE CITY OF LYNCHBURG THROUGH
 SEPTEMBER 30, 2021**

ORDER

WHEREAS, the Lynchburg Circuit Court Jury Trial Preparedness Plan was approved by the Supreme Court of Virginia on January 20, 2021. Approval of the plan allows, but does not require, the Court to conduct jury trials;

WHEREAS, this Court resumed jury trials as of April 1, 2021;

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Virginia's Declaration of Judicial Emergency in Response to COVID-19 Emergency, as modified, clarified, and extended, has been extended to at least September 22, 2021, and directs the circuit courts to exercise their discretion in determining how best to safely operate their respective courts, including how to safely conduct jury trials;

WHEREAS, Lynchburg recently has seen a significant surge in the number of COVID-19 cases as reported by the Virginia Department of Health;

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of this Court that conducting a jury trial under present conditions would pose a substantial health risk to trial participants, to those working in the courthouse, and to the general public;

WHEREAS, it is the further opinion of the Court that the current public health crisis resulting from COVID-19 constitutes a natural disaster under §19.2-243(7) of the Code of Virginia.

NOW, THEREFORE, this Court hereby ORDERS:

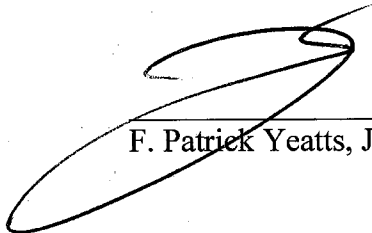
1. All jury trials in the Lynchburg Circuit Court are suspended through September 30,

2021.

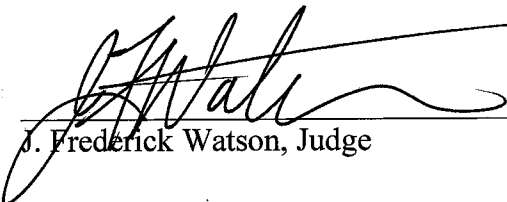
2. The suspension of jury trials in the Lynchburg Circuit Court through September 30, 2021 is the result of a natural disaster pursuant to Virginia Code § 19.2-243(7) and thus deadlines imposed by the Speedy Trial Act, Virginia Code § 19.2-243, are tolled.

The Clerk is directed to provide copies of this Order to the Supreme Court of Virginia, the Lynchburg Commonwealth's Attorney, the Lynchburg Public Defender, and the Lynchburg Bar Association.

Entered this 15th day of September, 2021.



F. Patrick Yeatts, Judge



J. Frederick Watson, Judge